



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2025

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held July 16, 2025.

*For more information, contact **Tia Fraser-Dupuis, Acting Economic Development & Communications Officer** at 613-543-2673*

Youth Recognition – Eshal Ali

Council recognized the academic accomplishments of Eshal Ali. As Valedictorian of Seaway District High School with the highest academic average across all four years, Eshal earned prestigious national honors including the TD National Scholarship for Community Leadership (1 of 20 nationally) and Queen's Chancellor's Scholarship (1 of 48). Other achievements include the Governor General's Academic Medal, Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award, and Queen's University Dean's Honours List.

Eshal founded Resenex, a national nonprofit supporting underrepresented, rural, and first-generation students in accessing research mentorship—addressing the gap she recognized. As Vice-Chair of Queen's AMS Board of Directors, she helps oversee a \$20 million student society representing Canada's oldest student governance body.

Her early political engagement as Student Trustee for Upper Canada District School Board saw her represent over 30,000 students across Eastern Ontario while co-founding the Student Trustees Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Eshal's local commitment shines through founding Girls in STEM South Dundas, providing hands-on science programming and mentorship for rural girls. Her service extends from supervising Kingston's TALK Crisis Line for mental health support to conducting healthcare policy research linking community programs with reduced emergency department visits among seniors.

Her ongoing research spans rural hospital systems and medical education frameworks, with developing publications and recognition as a National Finalist in the Undergraduate Science Case Competition. She's contributed research through prestigious institutions including the Bruyère Research Institute and Winchester District Memorial Hospital.

“South Dundas is really proud of you, and no matter where the world takes you, South Dundas will always be your home,” said Mayor Broad. “I think it’s astonishing,” added Deputy Mayor St. Pierre.

Appointment of By-law Officer



Council has officially appointed Chase Crossthwaite as a By-Law Enforcement Officer.

The Police Services Act authorizes Municipal Council to appoint person(s) to enforce the By-laws within the Municipality of South Dundas. In June 2025, the former ByLaw Enforcement Officer left the position, and a new full time By-Law Enforcement Officer was hired.

2024 Financial Statements

The 2024 draft financial statements were presented to Council on July 16, 2025, by Mr. James Pollock, Partner at MNP LLP. In his presentation to Council, Mr. Pollock confirmed that the Municipality is in a strong financial position.

The audit findings letter to Council identified that unpaid taxes increased by 32% as of December 31, 2024, compared to 2023, while total tax revenues only increased by 6.7% from the previous year. Although unpaid taxes remain higher than last year, we are seeing improvement in collection trends. As of June 30, 2025, unpaid taxes are 15% higher than the same period one year ago. Administration continues to monitor this situation closely and is pursuing all reasonable collection actions.

As mentioned by Jamie Pollock of MNP during his presentation of the financial statements, reserve funds are healthy. However, the Asset Management Plan clearly identifies several large infrastructure projects that will require significant financial resources to complete in the near future.

The financial statements demonstrate the Municipality's commitment to responsible financial management through strategic reserve fund allocations and adherence to the Asset Management Plan.

For more information, contact jstewart@southdundas.com

Concrete Grinding Tender Awarded

Tender TS25-05 for Concrete Grinding at the Matilda Landfill was awarded to Creekside Excavation Inc. in the amount of \$37,235.00 +HST.

The Concrete Grinding RFQ was issued to fulfill the services required to eliminate a large pile of accumulated concrete at the Matilda Landfill.

For more information, contact jhyndman@southdundas.com



Sewer Use By-law

By-law 2025-62, a by-law to regulate discharges to the sanitary and stormwater sewer systems was adopted.

A sewer use by-law is a best practice that sets the standards and restrictions associated on what can be discharged into our municipal sanitary and stormwater infrastructure. The purpose is to ensure that there are clear regulations on the type and characteristics of material being discharged. Having a clear and concise sewer use by-law will ensure that developers and residents understand what can be discharged from their site into the sewer – ensuring that treatment facilities operate as designed, and, minimize the environmental footprint. An up-to-date enforceable by-law will encourage responsible behaviour, ultimately protecting and maximizing the long-term sustainability of treatment facilities.

For more information, contact bdehaan@southdundas.com

Development Charges: Follow Up & Next Steps

At the June 23rd Council meeting, staff provided Council with a report and presentation summarizing options that could be incorporated into the Development Charges Study and associated by-law. Council requested that staff provide some additional information and detail regarding the projects that were identified within the study.

Depending on the circumstances, other charges that make up the overall cost of development approvals include:

- Planning Review costs.
- Building Permit costs.
- Civic Addressing costs.
- Municipal or County entrance Permit costs.
- External Agency fees

South Dundas' building permit fees have not increased since 2019, and the current water and sewer connection fees are \$5,000 each. These fees have also been in place since 2019.

Staff will return to Council with further information regarding:

- An overview of the projects included in the Development Charges Study
- Commence a review of Building Permit Fees based on current costs and future growth
- Prepare a report for Council to increase connection fees effective January 1, 2026, based on CPI experienced since adoption of the by-law (2022).

For more information, contact bdehaan@southdundas.com



Streetlights

Director of Transportation Hyndman provided an overview of the results of the Streetlight Survey previously conducted by staff. The survey captured responses from both long-term residents (10+ years) and newer community members, providing a comprehensive perspective on lighting needs. The majority of residents provided feedback for in their neighborhoods after dark with current lighting conditions, representing a significant public safety issue.

Council directed staff to begin with installing streetlights in Elma, as this has been an area of concern. Staff will also budget for further lighting in 2026, to light additional areas of concern. Existing streetlights that are in need of repair will be dealt with immediately.

Strategic Plan Mid-Year Review

Clerk/Director of Corporate Services Lebrun and CAO de Haan provided Council with a mid-year review, focusing on goals set out in the Strategic Plan.

Highlights include:

- Service Digitization & Modernization
- Business Continuity & Emergency Preparedness
- Staff Development & Recognition
- Communications Enhancement
- Records Management
- Long-term Capital Planning
- Community Hubs and Gathering Spaces / Increased Municipal Program Utilization
- Environmental Stewardship
- Strategic Land-use Planning

"Let's keep working on it, bringing things forward and working on the goals we've had," said Mayor Broad.

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Upcoming Meetings

September 10, 2025 – 6:00 pm

October 1, 2025 – 6:00 pm

October 29, 2025 – 6:00 pm